



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 5

77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

EPA Region 5 Records Ctr.



361397

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF:

L-8J

Dr. Carol Auer
Superintendent District 20
5540 Arlington Drive East
Hanover Park, Illinois 60133

Dear Dr. Auer:

Students and staff at Greenbrook Elementary School are safe from a methane gas hazard according to results from indoor air and underground sampling recently overseen by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Methane detectors installed in the school will continue to monitor the indoor air and alert school officials if a problem arises, but to date the devices have not detected methane in the building. Methane also was not found in the indoor air samples analyzed by health experts.

A number of underground methane samples were also taken around and under the school during spring break March 28 – April 5, 2009. The samples were collected from various depths around the south, west and north sides of the school and from four locations underneath the building. Methane was detected in one of these samples, which was collected about 10 feet south of the south wall near the west side of the building. The concentration detected at this location ranged between 0 and 4.7 percent methane. The depth of this sample was between 16-25 feet.

The EPA continues to investigate the release of underground methane gas from the landfill. As you know, Browning Ferris Industries (BFI) and the Forest Preserve of DuPage County (DFP) signed a legal agreement with EPA to contain and clean up methane sources and hot spots. BFI and DFP are installing a well about 250 feet away from the Greenbrook building to remove an underground pocket of methane gas. Well drilling is expected to begin this weekend or early next week. The well contractor will take steps to protect the safety of students and staff during drilling.

In consultation with the federal Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, the Illinois Department of Public Health and the DuPage County Health Department, here are our conclusions:

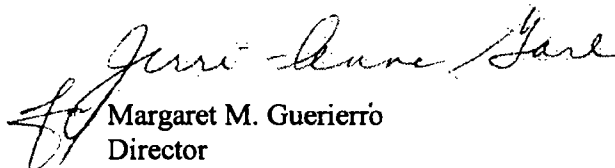
1. Data collected to date do not suggest a public health hazard to staff or students who will be returning to Greenbrook School from their Spring Break on Monday, April 6.
2. No methane from beneath the surface has been detected in the air in the school.

3. The methane detector that is continuously monitoring the air in the school would provide sufficient warning to protect the health and safety of the staff and students in the unlikely event that methane does enter the school.

The EPA will continue to keep the school district advised of the results of our ongoing investigation and will continue to solicit public health guidance from local, state, and federal health agencies on any potential risks posed by landfill gases in the area of the school.

If you have comments or questions, please don't hesitate to call me or these EPA staff members: Walter Nied (nied.walter@epa.gov, 312-886-4466), Steve Faryan (steven.faryan@epa.gov, 312-353-9351), and Donna Twickler (twickler.donna@epa.gov, 312-886-6184).

Sincerely,


Margaret M. Guerriero
Director
Land and Chemicals Division

cc: Gary Olfisher, School District 20
Kevin Dixon, DCHD
Harvey Mull, DuPage County Health Department
Michelle Colledge, ATSDR
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